

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 10

OF THE

Society
BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

FOR THE

AID AND ELEVATION OF THE FREEDMEN.

WITH A LIST OF

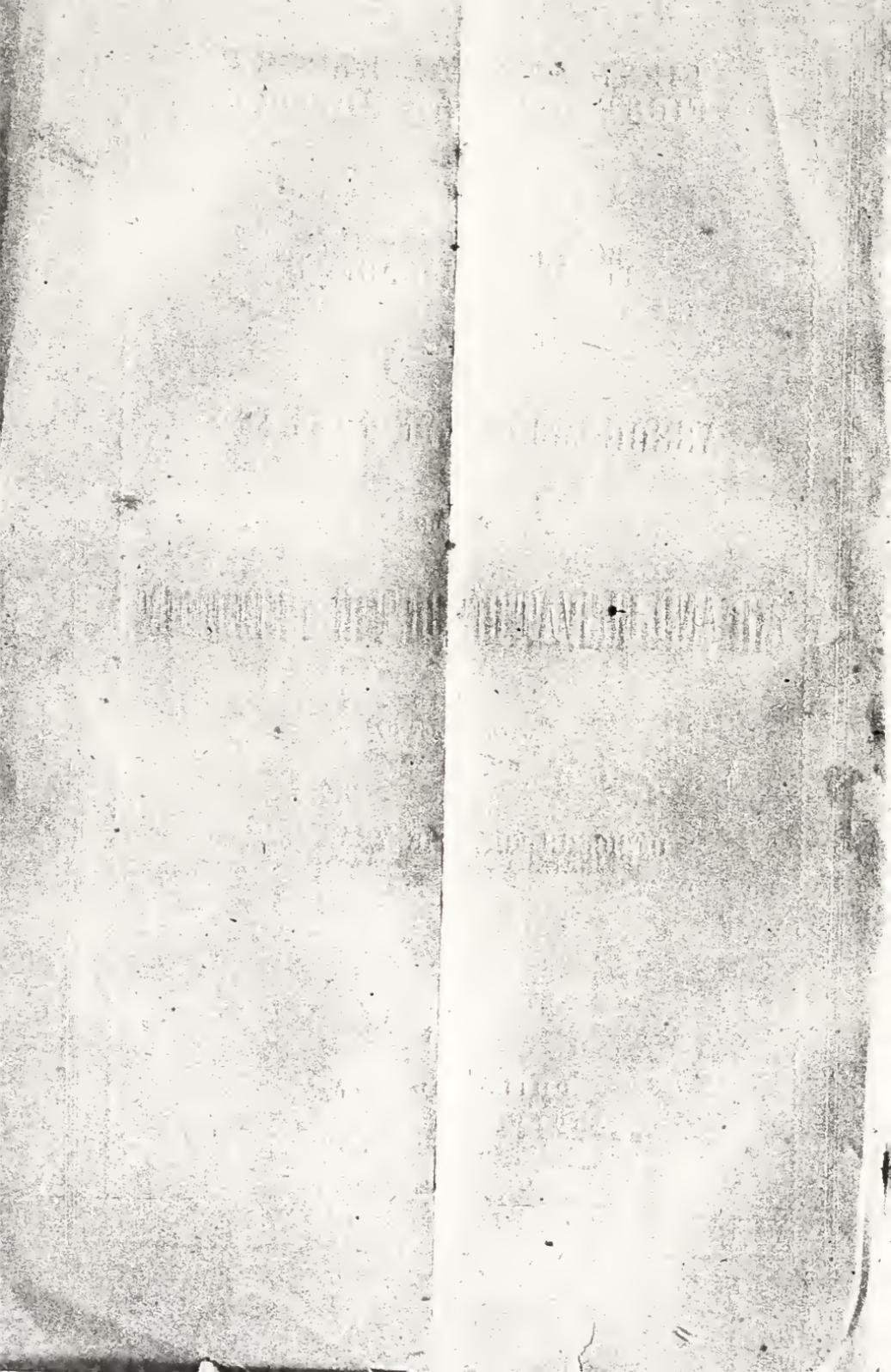
OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1865.

PHILADELPHIA:

MERRIHEW & SON, PRINTERS,

No. 243 Arch Street, below Third Street.

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CLERKS,

WILLIAM M. LEVICK,
EDITH W. ATLEE.

TREASURER,

MACPHERSON SAUNDERS.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

JAMES MOTT,	LUCRETIA MOTT,
DILLWYN PARRISH,	RACHEL T. JACKSON,
MACPHERSON SAUNDERS,	DEBORAH F. WHARTON,
JOHN WILSON MOORE,	RACHEL W. MOORE,
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EDMUND WEBSTER,	SARAH W. BARKER,
WILLIAM M. LEVICK.	<i>Corresponding Sec'y.</i>

REPORT.

We deem it needless at this time to elaborate an argument to convince of the necessity for earnest, unflinching service in the ever-enlarging field into which we have entered. It is sufficient only "to lift up our eyes and look upon the fields" that we may know they "are ripe already to harvest," and therefore, the call for laborers is pressing and imperative.

Being desirous that this offering of our gleanings should give the receiver a clear understanding of our work during the past year, a repetition of former publications has been unavoidable.

Impressed with the immediate need of attention to the welfare of the colored people in our country liberated from bondage, a large company gathered in Friends' Meeting House on Race St., First month 6th, 1864, and organized "Friends' Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen," adopted a Constitution, appointed a Finance Committee, and an Executive Board which has met twice in each month during most of the year.

At their meeting First month 12th, 1864, an Address, soliciting the co-operation of the members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends was read, approved and referred to a committee for circulation, with a desire that it should be read in Monthly and other meetings.

The response to this appeal gave encouragement to believe that the continued aid of Friends would be freely given in the work before us, and, therefore, with renewed earnestness, we made preparations to hear the cries of the needy, and, according to our means and ability, to endeavor to relieve their sufferings.

A committee was formed for the judicious distribution of supplies at a meeting of the Executive Board, First month 6th, and, at the same time, a proposition was introduced to send teachers

among the freed people, which was considered and referred to the Association, recommending the appointment of an Educational Committee to unite with one from the Board. This was approved at the next meeting, and the Committee then appointed continued to act until the Association decided to entrust this interesting and important portion of service to the committee of the Executive Board.

With the view of ascertaining the appropriate field for operation, the Executive Board, in the Second month, requested the Corresponding Secretary to communicate with agents and other persons in portions of the Southern States where the freed people had collected, enquiring concerning their condition; and, in the Fourth month, our friends, H. W. Ridgway and Josiah Wilson, were sent to visit accessible localities in Gen. Butler's department.

The information gained from these sources induced the conclusion to concentrate our labors in the neighborhood of Washington.

At the meeting of the Association in the Fifth month, a Report of the transactions of the Executive Board up to that time was read and directed to be published. The information was therein contained that Sarah Ann Cadwallader had been stationed as a teacher at a camp ten miles from Alexandria, Va. Good results are apparent from her labors, and the school is still sustained, although she has been removed to another locality.

In the Sixth month, Harriet E. Stockly presented a report of a visit of examination to the camps near Washington, and her description of Camps Wadsworth and Rucker, as here given, induced the appointment of Lydia T. Atkinson as teacher at Camp Wadsworth.

"CAMP WADSWORTH.—*Superintendent*, Philip Fowler; *Farmer*, Ephraim Plowman. One hundred and seventy Freedmen. Five hundred acres under cultivation, worked by about sixty persons.

"On this farm some children of only eleven years of age are put to daily labor in direct violation of Government regulations, which require that they be sent to school till they are fourteen. The people work ten hours a day. The farm looks well, and it is supposed thirty bushels of wheat and fifty bushels of rye will be raised to the acre. The Freedmen occupy two houses three-quarters of a mile apart. There are only three

or four cabins and six acres appropriated to them; but the farmer promises to make a different arrangement.

"CAMP RUCKER. — *Superintendent*, Philip Fowler; *Farmer*, Oliver Beesley; *Teacher*, Sarah Ann Cadwallader. Eighty-six men, women and children,—twenty men, thirty-two women, and thirty-four children. There are at this time, on this farm, ninety acres in winter grain, eighty-five in corn, fifty in grass, seven in garden, two and a half in black-eyed peas, twenty-five of white beans, two and a half of corn for horses, and one acre in potatoes.

"Since last fall, all the cabins, fifteen in number, have been built: with four exceptions, they are 16 feet by 14 feet, and ample in height. There are upon an average about six persons to each house. Should the Freedmen remain here, there will be more cabins erected. Government has disposed of this farm, and the people will have to be removed; but this probably may not occur for two or three years. The condition of the Freedmen here is very satisfactory. Their cabins are whitewashed outside and in, and all neatly kept. The people are clean, tidy and highly appreciative of the improvement in their condition. Many of them escaped from severe masters, and they manifest a degree of gratitude to those who have aided them which I have never seen excelled. They are exceedingly attached to their teacher, and fear lest she should leave them. She has labored indefatigably, and in a measure successfully, for their elevation, and it is their testimony that their condition has been greatly improved since she came among them. There is a smaller number at this camp than at any other, which gives them a decided advantage. The standard of morality is high, and they are well cared for.

"There seems a prevalent want in all the camps of a spot of ground to belong to each family where they can raise vegetables for themselves, and also to give their homes a more attractive appearance."

Early in the Seventh month, letters having been received by Louisa J. Roberts, depicting great suffering and destitution on Mason's Island, she believed that a personal inspection of the place without delay was incumbent upon her. On arriving there, she thus reported its condition:

"CAMP TODD, Seventh month 7th, 1864.

"DEAR S.,—I am at work in earnest. I have the entire co-operation of all the officials hereabout, and think I am in the right place at the right time. I wish I could give thee a word-picture of all Sally and I have seen and done these last two days.

"We went over to Mason's Island with both our boxes yesterday, and as the doctor went his rounds, we followed him with our dainties for the sick. The sights that met our eyes were revolting. The quarters have been barracks for soldiers, and are well ventilated and comfortable, so

far as the buildings can make them; but when that is said all is said. The poor inmates are destitute of every comfort, ragged, filthy, and lying on the floor; few of them having even straw. Nearly the half are sick, and we might say were actually dying for something they could eat. Raw meat, tainted by the extreme warm weather, was lying in sight of poor creatures who were in the agonies of death, and raw beans and salt pork and beef, that had been issued to those who were too sick to prepare them for food, or to eat it if prepared by others, were scattered everywhere. Piles of rags and dirty clothes lay in every corner, and at every place where the poor sufferers found rest for their aching bones. We kept a kind-hearted black soldier, who was in disgrace, cutting our dried beef all the afternoon; he became very expert, and shaved it nicely enough for our own table. My thirteen pounds of crackers and delicate biscuit were exhausted by the time I had gone through all the houses, which are, I think, twelve in number. They are long and narrow, like all other barracks. I also distributed my five pounds of chocolate. We came home at a late hour, with our minds busy trying to decide what we had best attempt to do further for them.

"Superintendent Nichols is in command. I had a pass from Colonel Green, allowing me to go where I please for ten days, from the 5th instant. S. and I compared views, and made up our minds how to proceed. So this morning we went, as early as we could get off, to Captain Brown, who is in command at the Freedmen's Village. He was not in, but we found his next in office, and were glad to discover him to be all we could desire. He said we might go over there, and do whatever we thought was best. With lightened hearts we left him, promising to call on our return, and see Captain Brown.

"Soon as we reached the Island, I went to the person in command, and told him we would like to have a place to prepare food for the sick, and that we had the day before found two women who we believed worthy of trust, and would do whatever cooking was necessary.

"He gave us one of the kitchens, put our two cooks on the pay roll at \$6 dollars per month, had a load of wood hauled, and gave us the control of as many men as we wanted. I undertook the supervision of this department, while Sally followed the doctor and his assistant through the wards, with crackers and beef. The floors were scrubbed, and our cooks soon had apples stewed and gruel made, and many a poor famishing creature was comforted.

"I then went into two of the barracks, and ordered all the children who could walk to be taken down to the river and thoroughly washed. Those who were too sick, I had bathed in tepid water, of which there was plenty on our great round stove. Then to each clean child we distributed clothing. We set our scrubbers to cleaning the houses; had lime scattered all around outside; and, feeling we had done all we then could do, we had our buggy brought, and started home to Camp Todd,

The Executive Board appropriated \$250 for immediate distribution in this locality, and its Educational Committee removed S. A. Cadwallader from Camp Rucker to Mason's Island.

In the latter part of the Seventh month, Louisa J. Roberts and George W. Robins were appointed by the Executive Board to visit Mason's Island and other localities in the vicinity of Washington, and, upon their return in the Eighth month, a written report was submitted, from which the following is extracted :

"I found the island more crowded than when I left, a week before. The measles had broken out among both children and mothers. The promiscuous herding together of men and women in the barracks had been forbidden. The doctor had been appointed surgeon of the island, and the opening of a hospital sanctioned.

"All these things were most encouraging, and though so many were suffering with measles, other diseases were on the decrease. I do not think it is too much to say, that the presence of those on the island who manifested a desire to benefit the suffering people there, has, in no small degree, assisted in bringing about this change for the better.

"Going through the barracks the day after my arrival, and inquiring about the necessities of the people, I found that many would gladly substitute loaf-bread for the cakes lightened with soda which they were using. I went over to Georgetown and bought of a baker a quantity of yeast, which I distributed among them. This led to the inquiry of how they were to bake it. One old woman said, 'She had no spider; that there was nothing of the sort in all the barracks where she stayed.' 'Why aunty, how does thee bake thy bread?' I inquired. 'I rolls it up in de ashes,' was the reply; and it was true. In all that barrack, where more than one hundred found shelter, there was not a single convenience for baking their flour into bread. The same I found to be true of the adjoining one. In each of the others, one or two individuals had spiders and Dutch ovens, which were kept constantly in use by the owners and others,—many waiting till far in the night to obtain the use of them. I thought I could not do a better charity than to purchase several ovens, to be kept by responsible women for the use of the barracks. I procured nine, at seven cents per pound, making a total cost of \$12 22. Colonel Green being on the island when they were brought over, I called his attention to the extreme destitution of the people, especially in their means of cooking. He apologized for it by saying that it could not be helped, that Government will do for them all that is required, but that it takes time.

"These poor colored dependents must wait until the soldiers are served. They are dying for the *bare necessaries* of life, not that there is insufficient food provided, for there is an abundance even to wastefulness, but the want of means of cooking it properly causes much suffering.

stopping to see Captain Brown, who heartily endorses all we have done, and promised us all that it was in his power to give.

"I stopped writing to attend a prayer meeting, held at the house of one of the men here, under an arbor made of the boughs of the neighboring trees. They had a good time, and I felt glad to be present with them. I could write, if I had time, much that would amuse and interest you all. We have been so busy that we have not read a paper since I came here. We heard to-day that you are having stirring times.

"I do not see how to leave until I have given these poor creatures a start. There never was a clearer duty before me than the one that now claims my attention. I am perfectly well—find Mason's Island a delightful place—it is only unhealthy when vegetation begins to decline. It contains the former residence of Mason, of "Trent" notoriety. When I can get the cooks fully under way, give a clean whole garment to every needy, ragged, filthy body, and set those who can spell to teach those who cannot, I shall feel that I have performed the labor given me to do. Sally and the doctor can then supervise, and I am sure the "Executive Board" will have done a work they need not be ashamed of; but to do this, it is imperative that I remain at least till the middle of next week, and also important that I have the material to work with. Without delay, thou wilt see the Treasurer, and as many of the "Board" as thou canst. Say to M. A. G. that I would like to have two large boxes of children's clothing,—boys' pants and shirts, baby slips and frocks, suited to ages from three years up to ten and twelve,—not many women's garments or dresses, but for *girls* all that she can gather.

"For the sick I must have corn-starch, crackers, dried beef, &c. If the "Board" can send me money, I can purchase these as cheaply in Georgetown as they can be procured in Philadelphia, and save the expense and trouble of transportation. We have a boat at our service, and men to row across the river to Georgetown. It is making an unusual request, but as a member of the "Board," and seeing the need, and knowing these things will be the life and comfort of hundreds who will continue to suffer without them, I urge upon all of you to grant it. I know those in whose care all will be intrusted are worthy your confidence.

"The exigencies of the military service engross everything now, and I fear it will be almost impossible to get the boxes of clothing. If the money is sent for buying nourishment, I can continue my supplies to the sick, even though they should suffer for the want of clothes.

"To supply the want of crackers to-day, Sally took half of our white sugar over to Georgetown, and exchanged it for them. We have enough for to-morrow; after that, will have to depend upon the Friends' aid, &c. The corn-meal served out is of the most inferior quality. The rest of the provisions generally good, except the fresh beef, which I insist shall not be served to them while the weather is warm, in which Captain B. fully concurs."

"In establishing the hospital, Government has provided for all except the mothers with newly-born infants. The surgeon asked the aid of your Board in *furnishing* an apartment for such; without further consulting you, I promised aid, as the outlay will be comparatively trifling. Eight bedsteads are all that he asks for; these to be about three-quarters size. The ticks filled with straw are expected to be drawn with the other stores. The bedsteads are so much less in price here than at Washington, that I have promised to send from *here*.

"One thousand garments have been distributed, sent from *this* and the Women's Association, and yet one scarcely sees the good they have done, the population on the island is so fluctuating. Every effort is made to get homes for all able to work.

"Hard as is the condition of the people on Mason's Island, the reports that come from *Memphis* represent the Freedmen there in so much greater distress, that these seem comfortable in comparison. A lady who arrived last week from Memphis, informed me that there is a field appropriated to them, and as they arrive in the city they are taken out to this field and there herded together without shelter or any comforts, just as a drove of cattle would be disposed of. The mortality among them is startling. It is to be hoped that an inquiry may be made, and if things are as bad as represented, some steps may be taken to better the condition of those people."

The establishment of a temporary Home in this city having been recommended for the accommodation of the Freed people seeking employment, the subject was referred to a committee, which, after investigation, proposed that a building be rented; but the co-operation of Government in furnishing free transportation having been declined, and other difficulties arising, after further consideration it was concluded to defer definite action.

In the Ninth month, the subject was again introduced to the notice of the Board by a communication from the "Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery," &c., suggesting joint action with that Society and the three Freedmen's Associations of this city. A committee of conference was appointed, which recommended that the matter should be referred to the care of the Abolition Society, with an appropriation, if required, of \$100 from our funds. This was approved by the Board.

In the Eighth month, Margaret Preston was employed to act as teacher or nurse, as circumstances might require, at Mason's Island; and about the same time, Mary McLain was engaged as teacher at Camp Wadsworth.

The people on the two farms composing this camp evince a desire to support themselves, and they have paid for a considerable portion of the clothing distributed among them.

In the Ninth month the Committee on Supplies was released, and Louisa J. Roberts, Macpherson Saunders, George W. Robins, Martha Dodgson, Spencer Roberts, Nathan W. Ellis, Joseph M. Truman, Jr., and Franklin S. Wilson, were constituted a Sanitary Committee, the Board appropriating for their use \$500 to be expended in hospital stores mainly for Mason's Island.

By the publication of the following appeal, prepared by them, valuable contributions were received and forwarded :

"Friends' Association, of Philadelphia, for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen," have co-operated with Government in the establishment of hospitals on Mason's Island, where much sickness and great destitution now exist. The undersigned, a sanitary committee of said Association, solicit from Friends and others, contributions of hospital stores, which will be judiciously distributed by nurses and teachers sent out by the Association to Mason's Island, Camp Wadsworth, and other points in the vicinity of Washington.

"The articles most needed, are dried fruits, such as apples, peaches, cherries, plums and blackberries; also blackberry and other syrups, and all other articles suitable for the sick and convalescent.

"Contributions of bed-covering, and clothing for women and children, will be very acceptable, as they are greatly needed. Free transportation has been granted by Government from Philadelphia.

"All contributions should be sent to J. & M. SAUNDERS, 34 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia.

Phila., Ninth month 17th.

On behalf of this Committee, Louisa J. Roberts, accompanied by Margaret A. Griscom, again visited Mason's Island, and thus reported upon their return :

"After the business of the Sanitary Committee was concluded at their meeting, held Ninth month 23d, I proposed to go again to Washington, for the purpose of laying before the newly-appointed Quarter Master, the wants of our teachers and the people among whom they labor, and to look after our boxes sent since his appointment to office in that department.

"My proposition was accepted, and I lost no time in starting, as our interests demanded early attention.

"We had several satisfactory interviews with Col. Elison. Our teachers appear to have his entire confidence, and he seems willing to do all that lies in his power, to promote their comfort and efficiency.

“The condition of the people on Mason’s Island is much improved; the great mortality that prevailed during the latter part of the summer, has given place to a more healthy condition, attributable to the success that has attended our efforts to provide hospital accommodations, and to the approach of colder weather.

“Many cases of sad bereavement claimed our tenderest sympathy,—wives, husbands, children, with tearful eyes, answered my inquiries after their companions, with these words, ‘Dey is gone to de graveyard.’ One young woman whom I had noticed particularly for her cheerful, pleasant smile, and whose devotion to her three little children, had won for her my warmest admiration, came to me with such a sad face, that I inquired what had happened since I saw her last. ‘You knows my children,—dey is all gone; Ise not got one lef;’ was her sorrowful reply. It required no apostolic injunction to call forth the tear of sympathy that welled up as I listened to her recital, and commended her to that source of comfort which had never failed *me* in the direst extremity. This was not an isolated case; I met with several mothers who had sustained similar losses. Quite a number of children are still in the hospitals, tenderly cared for by our faithful and earnest matron, M. P., whose indefatigable labors are acknowledged by all who have intercourse with her. We have the satisfaction of knowing that these hospitals, though but just established, and wanting yet many essential comforts, are beginning to receive patients sent by the department from Washington and Georgetown.

“A fund has been created from the sale of surplus rations, which will be used to supply vegetables, the want of which is sadly felt; many have died of scorbutic affections, after their disease had yielded to medical treatment, for the want of proper vegetable diet.

“The farmer of Camp Rucker deserves thanks for the many generous contributions of fruits, &c., he has sent them. If more of the men to whom the interests of these freed people are entrusted, were like him, their condition would be vastly improved. We were unable, from the shortness of our stay, to visit his camp, but were assured that it continues prosperous, and the people contented and happy.

“There is still a great want of drinking water on the island; no efficient measures have been taken to provide a sufficient supply; we made a special request that this be attended to without further delay; the whole population, teachers and all, have suffered in this matter. From the only well where water in any amount can be obtained, those who seek to avail themselves of its use must be provided with a rope and bucket, requisites not in the possession of all; they who have them not must throw themselves on the kindness of the more fortunate; wrangling and contention frequently occur, and the timid are often forced to resort to the marshy springs along the margin of the river; all agree that very much of the sickness and death that have made such fearful havoc among the people, were caused by the impure water they were obliged to drink.

'We does suffer for water,' said the old doctress, who is installed as chief assistant in the women's ward. 'Where are your buckets?' I asked; 'Dey dun give us none,' was her reply. Remembering that a dear friend, from whose lips many of us have drank in words of truth that spring from the eternal Fountain, had given me a sum of money to purchase waterpails, I promised immediate attention, and am glad to record that there will henceforth be no lack of buckets to hold the water.

"On returning home, we brought with us fifteen men, women and children, for all of whom good homes have been obtained; they came on at the expense of those employing them.

L. J. R."

Tenth month 13th, 1864.

Early in the Eleventh month, Helen G. Longstreth, accompanied by our friend, James Mott, visited Mason's Island and Camp Wadsworth. Upon their return the following report was presented to the Executive Board, and the suggestions therein contained were approved:

"In company with our friend, James Mott, of the Executive Board, I visited Mason's Island, (which is now a Government reception camp,) on the 4th and on the 6th inst. We found that the condition of the people had improved since the visits of Louisa J. Roberts and Margaret A. Griscom; several of the abuses, which they had represented to Col. Ellison, having been wholly or partially relieved.

"The new school room is large, well lighted and ready for the stoves which are promised this week. The discontinuance of the school taught by a daughter of the superintendent places all the children under our care; these at present number about one hundred who can be accommodated in this commodious room.

"The supply of water, although still insufficient, is somewhat greater than it has been. Another well has been commenced; we complained of its unfinished state to the superintendent, who promised it should be finished at once. In our interview with Captain Brown of the Contraband Department, at his office in Washington, this promise was repeated.

"Government now furnishes some clothing to the most suffering cases on the island.

"The sanitary arrangements are good; cleanliness is apparent throughout, and it is evident that the sanitary officer does his duty. He has the floors of the barracks cleaned every day, and there was neither rubbish nor offal to be seen on the premises.

"At present there are but four inmates of the hospitals.

"Not more than four hundred persons are now here; these are mostly women and children. We visited every barrack, and had an opportunity for conversing freely with the occupants of each. The countenances of a few beamed with pleasure, as they showed us useful articles which they

had purchased, with the proceeds of their paid labor. Some were preparing their dinners, but the greater number were sitting listlessly around the stoves, evidently suffering for want of something to occupy their thoughts and attention. Upon our asking them whether they would like to do some kind of work, their faces brightened, and their answers conveyed the idea that anything would be better than idleness, even if they received "no pay," but they preferred "pay." The suggestions we thus gathered from observation and from conversation with them induced us to believe that an industrial school, in which they could be employed in making up new, and mending their partly worn, clothing, also receive instruction in cutting out, making and mending such, would tend to fit them for future usefulness, whilst the idea of labor would be associated with their earliest experience of a life of freedom.

"When we introduced this subject to Captain Brown, we found him ready to co-operate with us in establishing a school of this kind; we offered to supply one or more teachers, whilst he agreed to provide us with a suitable room, and to furnish us with cut out clothing, together with the trimmings and implements necessary for making it up. We look forward to include in this branch of duties, cobbling, for the men.

"Captain Brown also told us that Government was unwilling to make costly outlays, as the permanency of the camp in this place is doubtful, on account of the unhealthiness of the island during several months of the year.

"Both here and at Camp Wadsworth we had opportunities for conversing with separately or addressing publicly nearly every individual in the respective camps. In this way we became better acquainted with their true condition than through any hearsay evidence which we have heretofore been able to obtain; and whilst their trying situation during this period of transition from slavery to freedom, called forth our deepest sympathies, we could but feel thankful for their present state of comparative comfort.

"We visited Camp Wadsworth on the 5th instant. Before leaving home we had learned that there were but few children at either the upper or lower camp. The present policy of the Government is to find homes for all children of suitable age to bind out. Many parents not wishing to be parted from their children have left these camps, preferring the uncertainties of seeking their own livelihood without the aid of Government to the probability of what may prove a permanent separation from them. This movement has nearly broken up Lydia T. Atkinson's school, and we suggest the transfer of her remaining pupils to the lower camp, which is under the care of Mary McLain, and her removal to Mason's Island where our school has been so greatly increased.

"We regret this change, as the children under her care had advanced rapidly in their studies, and the adults had greatly improved in house-keeping.

"At the lower camp we found that our teacher had been equally faithful in the performance of her duties, but we were much disappointed to see that the superintendent had built her a very small cabin, which, judging from its loose construction, will barely protect her from the winter weather. We called at his house in order to direct his attention to this; he was not at home. We had, however, an interview with his wife, and from our conversation with her we were led to the conclusion, that if we wish to do our work well, we must use our influence to induce conscientious farmers and their wives to seek such situations as this man holds, for unless those who have the care of these Government farms go hand in hand with us, and with our teachers, we shall be able to do our duty but partially, and throw discouragements in the path of those who look to us as their true friends.

"The greater part of the freed-people, in these two camps, are earning money by cultivating the farms. They are inclined to spend it judiciously. We, therefore, suggest, that our teachers here be furnished with a stock of trimmings and a few other articles in order to form a nucleus for a small store in case it should prove desirable to establish one here. Now, they are obliged to send nine miles to Georgetown for needles, tapes, and similar articles. We should not consider our report complete without adverting to the obligations which we feel we are under to our noble-hearted teachers, who are doing by far the heaviest part of the work for us, considering our interests and the interests of the Freedman as paramount, and neglecting their own so far as to be sufferers from sickness and discomforts of many kinds.

"In our comfortable homes, let us remember them, and seriously ask of ourselves whether we are doing all that we might do to evince our sympathy for them.

"In conclusion we would add that we think it advisable for our committees, when they visit the camps under our especial care, to visit also the camps in Washington, and acquaint themselves with the condition of the freed-people in that city, who are endeavoring to support themselves without the aid of the Government. We regretted that the inclemency of the weather prevented our doing this.

"It is well we believe for our Association to labor in the Government camps at this time. We must not, however, forget that it is equally our duty to obtain all the information we can, upon the various modes for elevating the Freedman, in order that we may be prepared to work in other directions, so soon as it is thought best for us to do so."

A letter from one of our teachers at Mason's Island gives the following interesting information.

Eleventh month 23d, 1864.

"Our day and night schools are progressing nicely and to our satisfaction, having over sixty children in attendance. Several women come

through the day, and during the two hours we teach in the evening both men and women come. They are industrious and quite as apt as we have reason to expect. We teach from 10 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon, with a short recess. Then we have classes of women in the barracks, who cannot leave to go to the school room. This does not occupy us more than two hours.

"We hold our night school from 5½ until 7½—forty usually in attendance. On Third and Fifth-day we have a sewing class for the little girls. Fourth and Seventh-day evenings being their seasons for religious meeting, we omit the school, and occupy the time in writing letters for the people.

"The four welcome boxes have arrived. The articles in the last one are very valuable, especially the books, slates, counting balls and letter blocks, and we thank you, in the name of the people, for your kindness.

"When Superintendent Nichols can get material, the boys will be engaged in work. 'Uncle Cain' is very willing to teach mat making."

It has been the constant aim of the Board to employ those teachers only who enter the work from conscientious motives, and with a sincere desire to benefit those among whom they labor. From a letter, written to a member of the Education Committee, by one of our teachers before entering upon her duties, we extract the following :

"Very earnestly I have sought to be guided aright in this matter, to avoid hasty conclusions or mistaken ideas of philanthropy. If my time has not yet come to enter this broad field of labor, if other and more efficient workers are at hand to break the path for feeblers to follow, then I will cheerfully withdraw, content to possess my soul in patience. I know the responsibility will be heavy; it will all be very different from anything my life has known; yet, with divine sanction and assistance, and the belief that I was engaged in a sacred work, I humbly trust I should be enabled to discharge my duties faithfully, and be sustained through all the trials I might have to undergo."

The spirit which this extract breathes commends itself to the young of our religious society, many of whom have qualifications for usefulness in leading the despised descendants of Africa from the degradation, consequent on their late enslaved condition, to a higher degree of civilization and independence.

Information having been received by the Board, at its meeting on the 7th of Twelfth month, of the destitution of the Freed-

people, who had collected on certain farms occupied by Government, in Saint Mary's County, Maryland, Helen G. Longstreth, who had just undertaken a visit to Mason's Island on our behalf, was charged with the duty of inquiring into the eligibility of this field of labor; accompanied by our friend, Dillwyn Parrish, she visited Mason's Island, and finding much to engage attention at that place, and the modes of conveyance to the distant locality in Maryland being laborious and uncertain, it was concluded to accept the proffered aid of an experienced friend of the cause, Emily Howland, who, accompanied by Margaret Preston, a teacher and nurse in our employ, started at once by stage to Charlotte Hall, 40 miles from Washington and about eight miles distant from the nearest of the Government farms; thence they proceeded, most of the way on foot, to the places designated.

On the first farm they found about 300 people, mostly occupying the former slave quarters, on what had been the estate of the rebel Col. Southron; at the head of this community were Lieutenant O'Brien and his wife. They seemed much interested in the welfare of the people, who were wretchedly housed and clad, and without schools or any suitable building for the purpose, as Lieut. O'Brien has no authority to build one; he expressed, however, a willingness to facilitate, in every way, the object of our Association, and intending to put a saw-mill in operation shortly, could supply lumber for its value; colored carpenters could be procured, needing only a competent mechanic to superintend them.

At the middle farm, which has a smaller community, a young man and his wife, named Wheeler, are stationed, who are much interested in teaching, and feel deeply the wants of the people which they are powerless to supply. The children are very destitute of clothing; many suits of rags and little bare feet are to be seen.

From a letter of Emily Howland we extract the following in addition: "The lower farm, one mile below, is occupied by a Mr. Avery, an excellent man for the place, from New Hampshire. There is no school-house there, but an unfinished addition to the house which, I thought, could readily be converted into a place

for a school. Both the lower farms are delightful; I was so warmly urged, by both colored and white, to remain, and the place was so alluring, I would have gladly staid if my word had not been given to my flock at Camp Todd."

The lower farms constitute an immense plantation, some thousands of acres, which, having been owned by the rebel General Forrest, will probably be occupied by Government for a long time. In view of the constant arrival of refugees, it seems that a field would be opened for us, at these farms, full of need and full of promise. In the mean time our friends in New York, having become interested in the same locality, have sent a Committee to visit it, and we await their report, intending to coöperate with them, if their examination seems to justify it, in the care of one or all the farms. Margaret Preston remains at the upper farm as our agent, to be of service, especially in the care of the sick. The Women's Association have sent one box, and friends in New York another, to relieve the immediate necessities of the people.

It has been the design of this Association, when a favorable opportunity presented, to direct its labors to a single community of the Freed-people, establish industrial and other schools, and, if possible, secure them a title to the lands they cultivate, thus testing their capacity for self-maintenance and improvement. Whether the opening at St. Mary's is favorable for this work remains to be ascertained; if it should prove to be so, the coöperation of our friends in New York, and, perhaps, those in Baltimore, would give strength and support to the undertaking.

Our labors at Mason's Island, which have been blessed for the benefit and improvement of the large and constantly shifting population collected there, must also continue unabated; the suffering condition of the people, arising from insufficient protection from the weather, calls for active and unremitting labors in their behalf; the sick also require care, while by the schools, maintained on the Island, many are grounded in the elements of learning during their short sojourn there.

We are not insensible to the touching appeals from the more distant localities in the South West, and in answer to requests from William F. Mitchell, at Nashville, Tenn., we have sent some supplies of clothing to be distributed under his supervision.

In a letter dated Nashville, Tenn., Twelfth-month 8th, 1864, he says ;

"Never were supplies more needed than now. At least 3000 are camped within half a mile of our lodge to-night, and many of them are without bedding of any kind. I have seen to-day 1200 persons living in five rooms, *without a fire in any one of them.*

Fires to cook with were built out of doors, and about them were gathered groups of women and children, trying to get warm. They had travelled seventy miles, within a week, to find this kind of refuge, escaping the bullets of those on their track, to die with exposure here. Every article that can be sent is needed.

Women stood three hours in the cold, yesterday, waiting their turn to get warm clothing ; the aged, infirm, crippled, mothers with children, and one insane woman, who had lost her reason because one after another had been sold from her."

In contemplating the work before us we are deeply impressed with its immensity, embracing not only the relief of the pressing physical wants of vast numbers of our fellow beings, but also their intellectual and moral culture, that they may be fitted for the new responsibilities attendant upon their state of freedom ; and we believe that in future labors our best policy lies in limiting our sphere to the localities we have named, while any excess of supplies, over those needed by the communities under our care, may be distributed for the relief of suffering elsewhere.

We thankfully recognize the fact that there are not a few of every class and sect in the Northern and Western States, who are zealously laboring to pay the Nation's debt to these hitherto oppressed people. Some, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and nourish and comfort those who are ready to perish ; others to lift them out of the ignorance and thriftlessness consequent on their long-continued servile condition, and to illumine their path to freedom and independence by the light of civilization.

The duty of this Association, while it seems to include a participation according to its limited means in every branch of the work, points especially to the elevation, perhaps of a single community only, to a position of independence and thrift, and to the removal of the imputation which has so long operated against

them, of being necessarily dependent and thriftless, by opening to them avenues to honorable and profitable employment, and uprooting the unrighteous prejudice which has so long crushed their efforts for improvement.

By the report of our Treasurer, we learn that of the nine thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars collected during the past year, seven thousand six hundred and twenty have been already expended, leaving only about two thousand dollars on hand to meet demands likely soon to arise. We would therefore urgently appeal to every member of our Religious Society, and to all others who are willing to aid in this work, to give freely of their abundance.

The poorest among us has indeed abundance, as compared with these objects of our charity; and to those who have not money we would appeal for aid in that wherewith they are blessed. Any of our friends, in the country especially, can part with articles of the greatest value to these sufferers, without denying themselves a single comfort. The appeal comes, however, with the greatest force to those who are living in the midst of plenty, who are stewards of abundance of this world's goods, and who, as such, are responsible to a common Father for the use they make of his blessings.

The Executive Board have been humbled in the retrospect of the past year, in view of our deficiencies, and, while we strongly commend this great work of Christian benevolence to those on whose behalf we have endeavored to administer it, we fervently desire that, for the future, we or our successors may prove more industrious and worthy laborers in this extensive field, remembering the declaration of the Divine Master: "He that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

*Statement of M. SAUNDERS, Treasurer of Friends' Association for the
Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen.*

CASH CONTRIBUTED.

By Friends and others of this city,		\$7014 00
" " Trenton, N. J.,		135 90
" " Middletown, Del.,		40 00
" " in vicinity of Middletown M'ly M'ng.,		158 55
" " " Kennett "		165 00
" " " London Grove "		251 75
" " " Camden, Del., "		60 00
" " " West Chester Prep. M'g.,		168 50
" " " Bart "		36 00
" " " Newtown "		32 00
" " " Evesham, N. J., "		25 00
" " " Menden and Wheatland Prep. Meeting, N. Y.,		213 00
" " " Penns Grove Prep. M'ng.		25 00
" " " Falls Monthly Meeting,		173 15
" " " Piles Grove Prep. M'ng.,		70 75
" " " Darby Monthly Meeting,		200 00
" " " Fallowfield "		41 50
" " " Farmington " N. Y.,		40 00
" " " Alloways Creek M'ly M'ng.		35 00
" " " Centre, Del.,		130 00
" " " Richland Prep. M'ng.,		64 00
" " " Bristol "		42 25
" " " Marion "		51 00
" " " Buckingham "		91 00
" " " Roaring Creek M'ly M'tg.		44 25
" " " West Liberty, Iowa,		16 50
By Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends,		56 22
" a Friend of Enterprise, Lancaster Co., Pa.		80 00
" Friends and others in vicinity of Nottingham M'ly M'ng.,		43 50
" " " Plymouth Prep. M'ng.,		56 40
" R. A. & S.,		5 00
" St. Paul's Church, Doylestown, Pa.,		6 00
" Friends of Christiana, Lancaster Co., Pa.,		15 50
" S. D. L.		5 00
" Lydia T. Atkinson, for goods sold Freedmen,		76 30
		<hr/>
		\$9667 62

PAYMENTS.

To Women's Association, for clothing,	\$4800 00
" Committee on Education,	1142 84
" Sanitary Committee,	1416 80
For shoes, printing, and necessary expenses,	260 89
	<hr/>
	\$7620 53
Balance on hand,	\$2047 09

DISTRIBUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1864.*

Box in First month to H. Simmons, Freedmen's Village, containing 50 garments, furnished by Women's Association, and 56 pairs of shoes, from this Association.

Third month 2d, box to Joseph Dugdale, Prairie Grove, Iowa, 354 garments, valued at \$380.

Fourth month 20th, two boxes to Lucy Chase, Norfolk, Va., containing 789 garments, valued at \$792.

Fourth month 25th, to Camp Rucker, 7 Colton's maps, 1 Smith's large U. S. Map, 2 school atlases, 1 writing chart, 2 doz. Wilson's First Reader, 2 doz. Wilson's Second Reader, 3 doz. Wilson's Speller, 4 doz. Wilson's Charts, 1—8, 1 doz. Wilson's Charts, 15—16, 1 pt. liquid slating, 4 doz. slates, 200 pencils, 8 brushes, soap, candles, school bell, 1 doz. lamps, 12 doz. thimbles, 40 spools of cotton, 6 papers needles, 6 pieces tape, 4 boxes buttons, 1 package dried fruits; and 134 garments sent from Women's Association.

Fifth month 19th, box to Camp Rucker, containing 2 doz. Madras hdk's., 3 pieces of muslin, 3 pieces gingham, 1 piece of print, 2 pieces shirting, 1 gross buttons, 8 prs. small scissors, 2 prs. large scissors, 1 pr. shears, 1 lb. drab thread, and a donation from Franklin Wilson of 2 gross pant. buttons, 1 boy's shirt, 5 prs. stockings, man's coat, boy's jacket and pants, and a quilt.

Fifth month 28th, to Camp Wadsworth, box containing dry goods valued \$90.99. 12 infant slips, 12 girls' dresses, 2 prs. pants, 63 under garments, 1 gross thimbles, 2 gross buttons, 3 doz. spools cotton, 250 needles, one dollar's worth of garden seeds, 1 school bell, 5 brushes, stationery, valued at \$30.68.

Seventh month 20th, sent to Mason's Island box containing 447 garments, valued at \$484.00.

Ninth month 13th, box to Mason's Island, containing 197 garments, valued at \$250.

Eleventh month 11th, sent to Mason's Island stationery valued at \$38.14.

BOXES SENT BY SANITARY COMMITTEE TO MASON'S ISLAND AND ELSEWHERE.

Ninth month 13th, Box No. 1, of Sanitary Committee, sent to Margaret C. Preston, Mason's Island, containing sewing cotton and buttons, \$5.15, blackberry syrup and Jamaica ginger, \$6.70, dried fruit (apples and plums), \$5.95, dried beef, \$7.28: total value, \$25.08. 2 tin water pails for Hospital on Mason's Island, purchased with cash donation, \$2.00.

Tenth month 13th, sent Box No. 2 to M. C. Preston, Mason's Island. Contents—1 lb. sewing thread, \$2.00, 10 window shades for the General Hospital, (\$1.50 each,) \$15.00, 10 lbs. arrow-root (donated), \$8.00, 1½ bush. dried fruit, three packages part worn carpet, 14 jars canned fruits, 8 cans do., 1 bottle wine, 4 comfortables and quilts, 9 prs. stockings, (part worn), 2 delaine dresses, (part worn).

* Exclusive of clothing distributed by the Women's Association.

Box No. 3, sent Tenth month 28th to Margaret C. Preston, M. Island. Contents—23 large packages carpeting (part worn), 1 pillow, 1 wrapper, 3 prs. children's hose (new), and 1 package part men's clothing.

Box 4, donated by Christiana Aid Society, Tenth month 28th. S. M. C. Preston, Mason's Island. Contents—28½ yds. flannel, 3 lbs. ing yarn, 20 yds. towel linen, 2 shawls, 1 sack, 4 remnants dress (13 prs. hose, 2 quilted skirts, thread, buttons, and knitting needles

Box 5, from Millville, Pa. Sent Tenth month 28th to M. C. P. Mason's Island. Contents—9½ lbs. stocking yarn, 13 prs. stock quantity of dried fruit, and assorted clothing, amount not specified

Box 6, from Abington. Sent to M. C. Preston, Mason's Island, month 28th. Contents—12 quilts, 2 flannel skirts, 20 women's d 1 boy's suit, 9 children's suits, 1 bed quilt, 7 sacks, 13 shirts, 1 ski 1 part worn dress.

Box 7, sent Tenth month 28th to M. C. Preston, Mason's Island. Contents—Hospital stores, viz: canned fruits, 3 jars pickles, 2 bags corn, 1 bag Lima beans, 1 bag currants, and a quantity of dried ap

Barrel of apples sent to S. Cadwalader at same time, donated by County Friends.

Box No. 8, sent to Mason's Island Eleventh month 25th, from Dublin Sewing Circle. Contents—22 dresses, 9 boys' suits, 1 comfort and assorted clothing, part worn. Total, 251 garments.

Box 9, sent Eleventh month 25th to Mason's Island; from Dublin. Contents—10½ lbs. dried beef, 9 lbs. crackers, 3½ lbs. dried 1 bush. beets and onions, 7 jars pickles, 1 jar peaches, 1 jar catsup

Box 10, sent Eleventh month 25th to Mason's Island; from County, without a list of contents. Contained clothing, to which was 2 jars pickles and some part worn carpet.

Box 11, sent Twelfth month 9th to Wm. F. Mitchell, Nashville, contained 267 garments, valued at \$520. Obtained from Women's ciation.

Box 12, sent Twelfth month 16th, to Mason's Island, containing fruit, dried rusk, gingerbread, a quantity of part worn clothing, (a Greenwich, N. J.,) also one large blanket shawl; and 3½ lbs. st yarn, and 10 sets knitting needles, purchased with the remainder of donation to Sanitary Committee.

Box 13, sent Twelfth month 19th to Mason's Island; from (ana, Pa. Contents—10 prs. shoes, 14 coats, vests, and pants, 3 wr 3 women's dresses, 6 children's dresses, 20 prs. stockings, 3 quilted 3 small shirts, 6 children's aprons, 6 children's pants, 1 bed quilt and caps, books, spoons, boys' clothing, 2 strips carpet, 5 packages

To these were added 1 ham and a package of dried rusk.

Box 14, sent to Mason's Island Twelfth month 23d, came from S. D. Linnville; contained dried fruit and clothing. Number of garments not specified.

Box 15, package of bed-covers and part worn clothing, received from Mullica Hill, N. J., for Mason's Island; valued by donors at \$53.00; sent to Mason's Island Twelfth month 23d. 1 bbl. dried apples, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. apple butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. pickles.

Box 16, sent to Mason's Island Twelfth month 23d, contained 340 new garments, valued at \$540.

Boxes 17 and 18, sent from Bucks County without a list of contents, were forwarded, as requested by the donors, to Mason's Island.

Box 19, sent First month 4th, 1865, to Wm. F. Mitchell, Nashville, Tenn., for the orphan children between the ages of six and twelve years, who are in the schools, under his charge. The goods purchased by the Sanitary Committee, mostly made by the Bethany (colored) Mission School: 55 woolen dresses, 16 kersey jackets, 20 prs. kersey pants,—all assorted sizes,—6 cloth jackets, donated by F. Wilson, 25 part-worn garments, and a small package of books.

Box 20, sent First month 4th, 1865, to Mason's Island. Contents—2 pieces of bed tick, 5 lbs. woolen knitting yarn, 1 lb. patent thread, 4 doz. prs. children's shoes, 6 prs. part-worn shoes, lot of shoemakers' tools and lasts. Besides these, there was sent at the same time one lot of sole leather, donated some time since by Samuel J. Levick, valued at \$70.

Expenses incurred in establishing a Lying-in Hospital at Mason's Island, Seventh month 20th, 1864.

Cash entrusted to me for the benefit of the Freedmen at		
Mason's Island,		\$250 00
From S. Hunt,		1 00
		<hr/>
		\$251 00
Seventh month 12th, Hospital stores,		\$ 5 75
" 14th, Crackers,		1 00
" Fresh meat,		4 25
" 18th, Personal expenses,		10 10
" Cash left for the Hospital,		30 00
" 23d, Expended in bread and meat,		15 25
" Nine bake ovens,		12 22
" Hospital stores,		7 60
" 25th, Crackers and groceries,		4 00
" Stamps and paper,		1 45
" 26th, Cash left with S. Cadwalader for		
Hospital use,		7 50
Passage money for self, and refresh-		
ments for 30 women and children,		6 00
Eighth month 9th, 8 pr. Bedsteads, at \$4.00 per pr.,		32 00
4 Tables, at \$2.00,		8 00
6 Chairs, at \$3.00,		18 00

Eighth month 9th,	$\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. Crackers,	5 64
	2 prs. window shades,	5 00
"	11th, Furniture check for spread,	28 13
"	24th, Muslin for Hospital use,	36 64
	Cash to S. Cadwalader, for sick,	10 00
"	27th, Muslin for Hospital usé,	9 90
	Syrup and Jamaica Ginger,	3 20

\$261 63

Most of these articles were used before Government furnished supplies usually granted to newly established hospitals.

L. J. R.

In response to the appeal in Ninth month, the following donations were received by the Sanitary Committee.

Ninth month. 10 lbs. arrow-root, valued at \$8.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ bush. dried apples, from Sarah Roberts; 1 counterpane and clothing, A. K. Parry; 14 jars preserved fruits, A. T. Lang; peaches, dried cherries, wine, and dried apples, P. T. Speakman; dried peaches and carpeting, L. Seal; 2 bed quilts, K. Hayhurst.

Tenth month. 1 box assorted goods, mostly in piece, from Christiana Aid Association: value, \$50.00. 1 bbl. apples, from Bucks County, Pa. 1 box from Abington Freedman's Association. 1 box from Millville, Columbia County, Pa. 1 box from Friends of Bucks Co., Pa.

From Friends in Germantown, the following, viz: 4 qts. dried corn, 4 qts. Lima beans, bag of dried currants, 8 cans preserved fruits, 3 jars pickles, 2 large packages part-worn carpet, 2 large packages part-worn clothing.

From Friends of Wilmington, one package of part-worn men's clothing, and one large package of part-worn carpeting.

1 bush. dried apples, $\frac{1}{2}$ bush. peaches, from Preston Eyre.

Eleventh month. 2 jars pickles, and a large package of part worn carpet, from Germantown. 2 boxes from Upper Dublin Association,—1 of clothing and 1 of Hospital stores.

Twelfth month. 1 box clothing and Hospital stores, from M. R. and H. B. Dare, Greenwich, N. J. 1 long cloth shawl, from E. Clendennen. Dried apples, from Thos. J. Burden. 1 box clothing, from Christiana, Pa. Ham and dried rusk, from S. F. Burton, Morrisville, Pa. 1 bbl. dried apples, and $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. pickles, Upper Greenwich, N. J. $\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. apple butter, and a box containing fruit and clothing, from Sylvester D. Linnville. 1 large package bed covers and part worn clothing, valued by donors at \$53.00, from Mullica Hill, N. J. 1 package, containing 6 new cloth coats for boys, from Franklin Wilson. 2 boxes from Friends of Bucks County. Feather pillow, carpeting, and sundry articles of women's clothing, children's hose, &c., from various other persons in Philadelphia and elsewhere, and a cash donation of \$10.00.

